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morrison-rockwood

STATE PARK

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THE PARK

Morrison-Rockwood State Park became a reality in 1971 when the Illinois General Assembly approved legislation authorizing its establishment and providing funds for its development. The 1152-acre park, in northwestern Illinois, is located in Whiteside County two and one-half miles north of Morrison near Route 78. Previously named Whiteside County Conservation Area, Morrison-Rockwood officially opened for day use only in September, 1971.

The name Morrison-Rockwood came about through a combination of the town Morrison and the fact that the park is near a heavily wooded portion of the Rock Creek.

THE LAKE

Lake Carlton, a watershed impoundment of 77 acres, is the focal point of the park. The lake is stream fed and blocked by a dam with a road across it. Its average depth is 12 feet with a maximum depth of 27 feet and a shoreline of 2.9 miles. The lake basin and the 38-feet high, 1800-feet long earthen dam were constructed in 1969 and the lake was filled by the fall of 1970.

In 1978 an eight acre siltation basin with an earthen dam was constructed on the northwest side of Lake Carlton. This basin was designed to catch mud and silt washing into Lake Carlton.

The lake was named in memory of L. Carlton Anderson, a Morrison resident who, with a group of Morrison citizens, actively promoted this area for several years before its dedication in August, 1972.

Mr. Anderson was born in Chapin, Illinois, July 2, 1905. He came to Morrison in 1930 and married Betty Yohn there. He was active in many community affairs and held various offices. Anderson was president of the Whiteside County Bank at the time of his death in 1971.

THE NATURAL SCENE

Within the park is an abundance of wildlife. A few of the animals a visitor may see are rabbits, squir-

rels, quail, pheasants, foxes, coyotes, muskrats, minks, groundhogs and deer. Ducks and geese are often seen swimming on the lake while the water has a variety of fish which the angler will appreciate.

Bird watchers will find good viewing at this park as there are about 160 species of birds to observe. The trees they live in are mostly hardwoods such as hickory, ash, oak and walnut.

UNUSUAL FEATURE

A modern day blacksmith artist from Morrison fashioned in angle iron the outline of the state of Illinois for the entrance sign. This has been mounted on a stone base with a mesh iron insert and was donated by the Lions Club of Morrison.

FACILITIES

Picnicking: Tables and outdoor stoves are in secluded, shaded picnic areas. One area has cleared individual picnic sites with surrounding vegetation for privacy. Paths into the areas are graveled and garbage cans lined with plastic bags are conveniently located.

Lakeview picnic area features a beautiful view overlooking Lake Carlton. Lakeview has a pavilion with a fireplace and electricity available. There is one well for drinking water in the area and several outdoor privies.

Camping: A wooded camping area with 95 camping sites and a trailer dump station is available.

Fishing: The angler has the opportunity to catch a variety of fish, including largemouth bass, black crappie, rock bass, channel catfish, redear sunfish, bluegill, muskie and walleye. Initial stocking of fish was completed in 1970. In addition to the shoreline, there are nine piers for use solely by fishermen.

Boating: Outboard motors are restricted to 10 H.P. and under. All boats with motors are to be operated at a slow, no wake speed to protect the shoreline from wave erosion. A two-lane concrete boat ramp and an area for private boat dockage are provided. A concession stand offers a variety of drinks and sandwiches.

Hiking: A three and one-half mile nature trail gives many scenic views of the lake and goes by an old rock quarry. Many wildflowers bloom in the spring.

Equestrian: A 14-mile equestrian trail includes a water well, shelter and overnight camping.

Winter Sports: When the weather gets cold enough, ice fishing and ice skating are permitted on the lake. Twelve miles of cross country ski trails are available. Sledding along the rolling hills is also popular.

Please: The park is for all to enjoy so help keep it clean. All pets must be on a 10-foot leash or less. Swimming is not permitted. The park closes at sunset.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION . . .

Groups of 25 or more persons will not be admitted to any state site unless permission from the site superintendent has been obtained to use the facilities. In addition, groups of minors must have adequate supervision and at least one adult must accompany each group of 15 minors. All pets must be on a leash.

Numerous state sites are within easy access of every part of Illinois. Lodges, cabins and dining rooms are important features of Illinois Beach, Starved Rock, Pere Marquette and Giant City; White Pines Forest has cabins and dining rooms only. Reservations for lodging should be made with lodge managers.

Most state sites are open year round, except on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. When weather conditions necessitate the closing of roads during freezing and thawing periods, access to facilities is by foot only.

For more details and specific information concerning this site contact Site Superintendent, Morrison-Rockwood State Park, R.R. 4, Morrison, Illinois 61270, phone 815/772-4708. For information on other land and historic sites, write the Illinois Department of Conservation, Land and Historic Sites, 524 S. Second St., Springfield, Illinois 62706.

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Morrison-Rockwood State Park

Park Map

PARK
TRAILER DUMP STATION
CAMP
CAMP
CAMP
FOLLOW ROADS IN CAMPSITE AREAS
OLD ROAD
SKI TRAIL
SKI TRAIL
SKI TRAIL
ROCKWOOD FIELD–REMOTE CONTROL AIRSTRIP
SKI TRAIL
CONCESSION BUILDING
PICNIC AREA
SILT BASIN
SKI TRAIL
PARK
PARK
SHELTER
BOAT LAUNCH
FISHERMAN'S ACCESS
ROCK CREEK
OAK TREE
LAKE CARLTON
ROCK CREEK
SKI TRAIL
PAVILLION FOR HORSE TRAIL
NATURE TRAIL
PICNIC AREA
DAM
EQUESTRIAN TRAIL CAMP AREA
PARK
PARK
PARK
SERVICE BUILDING & OFFICE
SKI TRAIL
ROCK CREEK
ENTRANCE TO PARK
TO MORRISON

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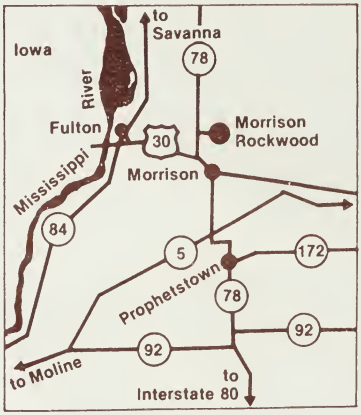

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